

Puerto Rico Work Report (September 2023)

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Greetings dearest brethren in Christ our Lord,

Wow, what a month it has been. The Lord has been gracious to us and helped us through many challenges. I am so thankful for the prayers, messages, and letters that many of you have sent. It is such a blessing to be a part of the great family of the Faith! Thanks be to God, I have made a lot of progress in my recovery and I am managing the health challenges much better now. Unfortunately, I am still struggling with some pesky allergy problems and

coughs that are making speaking a bit difficult, but that comes with the territory during this extremely hot time of the year. While the past few months have been very turbulent, we give thanks to God that this past month has been filled with an overabundance of opportunities.



The Rosado family celebrating a late birthday party with Abe and our family.

The Work in Arecibo

Our work in Arecibo has been abounding in many ways. I have had more opportunities for personal studies as well as publicly teaching at the Arecibo congregation. This past month I was able to finish my bible class on “The Christian & Money,” which is proving to have been a very timely study. There are many financial challenges that are hitting people now and I think some of the brethren are starting to realize the tremendous importance of proper planning and good stewardship. There have been a number of issues where there have been benevolent needs and these opportunities have provided a chance to help the brethren study, consider, and grow in the area of stewardship and understanding the role of the collection.

The brethren at Arecibo have also faced some recent challenges regarding church discipline. The Puerto Rican brethren have never really studied the issue of church discipline and so many of them don’t practice much corrective or instructive discipline at all. Recently there have been some situations that were so public they were too big to ignore. I have been studying with the brethren both individually and collectively to try and help them see the biblical model for discipline in texts like Matthew 18, 1 Corinthians 5, and 2 Thessalonians 3. This has been intensive work, but I believe it is helping the brethren here grow a lot. In one of my studies with Brother Rene on the matter of discipline, I remarked, “Even though it may feel uncomfortable we cannot run away and ignore church discipline. The situation will only get worse. Rather, we must stay in the moment of pain and learn from it. The work of the church is not always rainbows and butterflies, but it is the grueling work of dealing with sin in peoples’ lives with truth and love.” The brethren have been very receptive to these studies and have done a good job of applying the principles so far. There is a long path ahead, but even the little progress regarding church discipline is a monumental point of growth compared to other churches in Puerto Rico. I am not trying to use carnal standards, but rather to say that I think the brethren are making a lot of progress as they try to implement something they have never seen before, much less been taught about before. Yet, even with this progress, Satan seeks to sow confusion and discord. I cannot go into much detail in this report, but sadly there is another potential issue of marriage & divorce that has arisen that might open up past problems that we dealt with last year. I

continually pray for wisdom and guidance for the brethren in Arecibo and I hope that we can find resolutions to these challenges in a way that would obediently glorify God.



My boys with Alejandro and Alvaro Andres after a Saturday bible study

In addition to the normal studies that I have been doing around Arecibo, this past month I started up a weekly study on Saturday mornings with Alvaro Andres in the town of Dorado where he lives. Dorado is about 40 minutes northeast of where I live toward San Juan. Alvaro Andres is a young man who has invited people to church before and he is well connected to people in his community. However, Dorado is very different because it is extremely affluent and many of the residents of Dorado are Americans that speak English. I have stayed away from English areas in Puerto Rico mainly because the majority of people I am around speak Spanish and I did not want to be considered just another “Americano.” However, I realized that Alvaro Andres’ inroads to the community in Dorado should not be ignored. Rather, for the good of evangelism in that area and for Alvaro Andres’ growth, I needed to dedicate more time there. The studies have been going well and I have seen a lot of growth from Alvaro Andres. He has even agreed to start teaching the studies moving forward. I am very hopeful that there will be even more opportunities moving forward in Dorado.

Another great blessing and opportunity we have had this past month is the arrival of many young children to the services in Arecibo. Sister Yadimar has been doing an excellent job of bringing young children from the *residenciales* (the government-run apartment projects) to church services. We have also set up children’s bible studies on Saturdays at Yadimar’s house. Sadly, these children do not come from good households and have very rough living situations. Nevertheless, we are sowing the good seed of the gospel to them and some of them are very attentive. We have had as many as 10 kids show up to church and to the bible studies. Kaitlin has done an excellent job getting materials together for the kids. Unfortunately, there is relatively no children’s bible curriculum in Spanish, so Kaitlin is having to write a lot and translate by herself. Even so, opportunities abound here with the young kids, and we will continue to try to do our part in teaching them the good news of Christ.



This past month has been very busy with continued studies. Every Friday on the overview of the Old Testament. We have continued making good progress on those classes. Additionally, I have been teaching and preaching more at Arecibo. Some weeks I have 2 classes and 2 sermons on Sunday (Arecibo & San Sebastian), 2 classes on Wednesday, personal bible studies on Thursday and Fridays, the Old Testament study on Friday, and then 2 studies on Saturday. It has been a lot to manage. Furthermore, I have been working on finishing the translations of the bible class material on the Holy Spirit that I had written. I will be beginning that class next week and I am hoping to have the workbooks printed and finished as soon as possible. I will make that material available to

anyone who has an interest. The brethren at Arecibo have never gone through a workbook for a bible class, so this will be a new experience, one that hopefully brings much growth. I am sure that I will learn a lot from teaching this class.

The Work in San Sebastian

The brethren in San Sebastian are doing well and we just finished our series of bible studies on the book of Genesis. We will be continuing now onto the book of Exodus. The brethren have been very helpful and encouraging during these past few months of my health challenges. Brother Felix and his wife, Merry, have come up to visit us several times in Arecibo. Even though we continue to try to study with Merry and she regularly attends with us on Sundays, she does not seem to be any closer to making the decision to become a Christian. We have had a few new contacts this past month in San Sebastian, and I am hopeful that we will be able to get some bible studies with some of these people in the community.

Overall, the work is going well, but we are always looking for more help. The Lord's work in Puerto Rico needs more workers and we constantly pray that the Lord of harvest will send more workers to help us in our endeavors here to share the gospel with others. If you know of anyone who may be interested in helping in the work here, please let us know, we would love to invite and encourage in any way we can. Thank you so much for your support and prayers for us and our work here. If you ever have any questions about the work here in PR please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. May our great God of power and love always protect you and bless you!

Grace be with you,

Caleb B. Westbrook